



XXIII.

NEAL'S EARLY PURPLE PEACH.

The Peach here delineated has long been cultivated under the above name, in the Royal Garden at *Hampton Court*, where it usually ripens from ten to fourteen days earlier than the *Noblesse*: the characters of its blossoms and fruit are however very different from those varieties usually denominated *Purples*, and it might have been more properly classed among the *Migniones*. The trees are of moderate vigour in their growth; leaves large, slightly scolloped, of a deep green. Flowers, very large and beautiful; petals bright pink; filaments tinged with deep crimson at their base. Fruit large, rather irregularly formed, and more in length than in breadth: the skin is very downy; of a dark red on the side next the sun, with a mixture of scarlet in dots blended into a pale yellow on the shade side. Flesh yellowish white, with a few red blotches near the stone; of delicate flavour, melting, and sweet. Stone moderately large, rather pointed at the top, separating readily from the flesh.

This variety forces well; and it is, perhaps, the best early Peach at present cultivated in the gardens about *London*. The specimen from which the drawing was taken, was communicated by Mr. PADLEY, in 1812.